

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

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DRAFTED BY ARA/EP:MRRFRECHETTE:ZC

APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

PM/PA:ELCOCHRANE (INFO)

OSD/ISA:COL. RIVERS (INFO)

PM/SAS:JCLUNAN (INFO)

ARA/PLC:JWILLIAMS (INFO)

ARA-LA/EP:RFWEBER

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TO AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042326

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PE, US

SUBJECT: PERUVIAN INTEREST IN PURCHASING SUBMARINES

1. PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS ALVARADO, PERUVIAN NAVAL ATTACHE ADMIRAL ARCE AND PERUVIAN MINISTER-COUNSELOR ROCA (BERCKEMEYER NOW IN LIMA) CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN AFTERNOON OF MARCH 1 TO DISCUSS PERUVIAN PURCHASE OF TWO SUBMARINES.

2. REFERRING TO "THE SPIRIT OF TLATELOLCO" AND TO THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE GREENE MISSION, AMBASSADOR ALVARADO SAID HE HAD BEEN AMAZED TO HEAR ON RETURNING FROM MEXICO THAT THE U.S. WAS NOT BEING FORTHCOMING ON THE PERU-
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VIAN NAVY'S DESIRE FOR SUBMARINES. HE SAID WE SHOULD CON-

SIDER THREE FACTORS: (A) THE PERUVIAN NAVY LOOKS TO THE U.S. NAVY FOR DOCTRINE AND EQUIPMENT. (B) IF PERU CANNOT BUY FROM THE U.S., IT WILL GO ELSEWHERE. (HE NOTED THAT HIS FOREIGN MINISTER HAD EXPLAINED THE PERUVIAN PURCHASE OF SOVIET TANKS IN THIS MANNER AT MEXICO CITY.) (C) PERU CANNOT SIT IDLY BY WHILE THE U.S. SUPPLIES MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO CHILE AND THUS UPSETS THE "BALANCE" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IN THIS LATTER CONTEXT ALVARADO MENTIONED THE SALES OF DESTROYERS AND TRANSPORT VESSELS TO CHILE.

3. ALVARADO AND ARCE ENUMERATED SEVERAL MAJOR ITEMS WHICH THE PERUVIAN NAVY HAD ASKED TO BUY IN 1973 (HELICOPTERS, AIRCRAFT, LSD'S, DESTROYERS AND SUBMARINES) AND SAID THAT THE PENTAGON HAD TOLD THEM THERE WERE NO DESTROYERS AVAILABLE UNTIL 1976. THEREFORE, THEY ARGUED, THE U.S. MUST MAKE AN EFFORT TO SELL SOMETHING QUICKLY TO THE PERUVIAN NAVY IN ORDER TO PROVE THAT THE PERUVIAN NAVY IS NOT BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, EITHER IN FACT OR IN APPEARANCE, BY THE U.S. (LATER IN CONVERSATION THEY AGREED U.S. HAD BEEN FORTHCOMING ON AIRCRAFT, HELICOPTERS AND AVAILABLE LSD'S).

4. ADMIRAL ARCE SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE U.S. NAVY COULD MAKE AVAILABLE TWO GUPPY 1-A SUBMARINES BUILT IN 1944 AND NOW IN THE MOTHBALL FLEET. REFITTING WOULD COST DOLS 5 MILLION APIECE. ARCE SAID PERU WAS PREPARED TO PAY THAT AMOUNT IMMEDIATELY. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD ONLY DEPARTMENT OF STATE GO-AHEAD WAS REQUIRED FOR SALE OF THESE SUBMARINES.

5. SHLAUDEMAN SAID USG WISHED TO COOPERATE WITH THE PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES AND HAD NO INTENTION OF DISCRIMINATING AGAINST PERU. HE NOTED THAT THE DESTROYER SALE TO CHILE HAD BEEN IN THE WORKS FOR A LONG TIME. IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE U.S. NAVY HAD PROBLEMS IN MEETING REQUESTS OF THIS KIND BECAUSE OF THE UNAVAILABILITY OF SHIPS FOR TRANSFER. AS FOR THE TWO SUBMARINES, SHLAUDEMAN SAID HE HAD BEEN UNAWARE OF THEIR AVAILABILITY BUT WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER IMMEDIATELY. CASEY

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